

# 5.1

CREATIVE

## BLASTER *Extigy*



24bit

96kHz/100dB SNR

Stunning Audio  
Clarity

EAX  
ADVANCED HD

Intuitive Music  
Enhancement  
Tools

DOLBY  
DIGITAL

True Cinema-Quality  
5.1 Surround  
Sound

USB



Easy External  
Installation to PC  
and Notebook

### Getting Started

# User Manual

## Creative Sound Blaster Extigy

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## How to use this manual

**Important:** This PDF file has been designed to provide you with complete product knowledge. The following are instructions on how to make use of this PDF file effectively by launching applications and help files, as well as accessing relevant web sites, where applicable, via specially prepared links.

- To launch applications, Help files or to access relevant web sites, click the [blue text](#), or whenever the symbol  or  appears on the object or text.
- For best viewing, this PDF is by default set to "Fit Width" so that all the contents on every page is visible. If you are unable to read the text clearly, press Ctrl + <+> to zoom in or Ctrl + <-> to zoom out. To view full screen, press Ctrl + <L>.

**Note:** To access the applications and Help files, you must first install the manual and the applications in your computer. Otherwise, you will receive error messages. When you click a link to launch a program, a dialog box may appear to inform you that Adobe Acrobat is going to launch the application. Click the **All** button to run subsequent applications without the message appearing again. To access linked web sites, your computer must be connected to the Internet.



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## Introduction



# Introduction

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## Welcome to high-definition digital audio entertainment

Thank you for purchasing Creative's 1st high performance external Sound Blaster audio solution, the Sound Blaster Extigy!

Sound Blaster Extigy is a breeze to set up and use. Installation is truly hassle-free through the USB port, and the bundled Creative PlayCenter 3 is a one-stop digital music center that lets you play, record, organize and burn your own audio CDs easily. With the intuitive remote control unit, you can easily transform your PC or notebook/laptop into a digital entertainment center as everything is just a touch of a button away. Essential buttons like master volume, mic volume and CMSS are also easily accessible at the front panel.

Sound Blaster Extigy also raises the bar for digital sound quality on the PC, by delivering high definition 24 bit/96 kHz quality multi-channel sound for digital music, movie and gaming. In fact, the sound quality delivered is on par with high-end home theater systems that cost hundreds of dollars! Also with EAX ADVANCED HD™, digital music lovers will be able to enjoy an enriched digital music experience with advanced features like Audio Clean-Up, Time-Scaling, EAX ADVANCED HD Audio Effects and DREAM. Most importantly, while other external audio solutions still struggle to deliver good 2-channel digital audio, Sound Blaster Extigy delivers exemplary 5.1-channel digital audio performance with an architecture that intelligently optimizes the limited USB bandwidth for audio data transfer. This architecture was designed from the ground up to optimize available external bandwidth for digital audio processing without compromising quality and performance.

Sound Blaster Extigy also works as a standalone device, when not connected to the PC. You can conveniently plug in your personal audio players (CD/MD/MP3 players) for easy music listening or even up-mix stereo music to 5.1-channel audio using





CMSS. You can also plug in external Dolby® Digital equipment, for example, DVD players and video game consoles, making use of its onboard Dolby Digital hardware decoder to play DVD movies or games.

## What is EAX ADVANCED HD?



EAX ADVANCED HD brings a new level of performance, power and flexibility to PC audio. It delivers superior audio fidelity, rich environment effects and music enhancement features such as Audio Clean-Up, Time-Scaling, EAX ADVANCED HD Audio Effects, DREAM™ and CMSS™ for an unsurpassed digital music experience with the Sound Blaster Extigy.

## CreativeWare

CreativeWare for Sound Blaster Extigy provides you with the latest information on bundled software, feature upgrade options, and new software applications that will heighten your digital audio experience.

Visit <http://www.creative.com> for more information on CreativeWare.

## Package Contents



The items listed here may differ in certain countries.

Your package contains the following items:

- ☐ Sound Blaster Extigy
- ☐ Sound Blaster Extigy Stands
- ☐ IR remote control
- ☐ USB cable
- ☐ AC Adapter
- ☐ 2 AAA batteries for the IR remote control
- ☐ Sound Blaster Extigy Installation CD
- ☐ Application and game CDs
- ☐ Quick Start leaflet
- ☐ Warranty card
- ☐ Technical Support leaflet



## System Requirements

### Sound Blaster Extigy

- ☐ PC Systems, Notebooks or Laptops with **Genuine Intel® Pentium®** II 350 MHz or faster processor
- ☐ Intel or 100% compatible motherboard chipset
- ☐ Windows® 98 Second Edition (SE), Windows Millennium Edition (Me), Windows 2000 or Windows XP
- ☐ 64 MB RAM for Windows 98 SE, 128 MB RAM for Windows Me, Windows 2000 or Windows XP
- ☐ 250 MB of free hard disk space
- ☐ Available USB port
- ☐ Headphones or amplified speakers (available separately)
- ☐ CD-ROM/DVD-ROM drive installed
- ☐ SVGA or better display, set at 256 colors or higher

### Games, DVD viewing and Internet radio

- ☐ Genuine Intel Pentium III 450 MHz or faster processor
- ☐ Windows 98 SE, Windows Me, Windows 2000 or Windows XP
- ☐ 128 MB RAM for games
- ☐ 3D graphics accelerator with at least 8 MB of texture RAM for games
- ☐ Recommended 300 to 500 MB of free hard disk space for games
- ☐ An external DVD player or, for computer systems, at least a second generation DVD-ROM drive with one of these recommended soft-DVD players: InterVideo's WinDVD 2000 or CyberLink's PowerDVD 3.0 and above
- ☐ Internet radio requires at least a 56 kbps modem and an active Internet connection before running the application.

Other applications may have higher system requirements or may require a microphone. Refer to the individual application's online Help for details.

## Getting More Information

Refer to the [Sound Blaster Extigy Quick Start](#) and the various online Help files for detailed information. The [Sound Blaster Extigy Tour](#), an online presentation, gives you an interactive introduction to Sound Blaster Extigy and demonstrates its capabilities.

## More Help

View the contents of the Sound Blaster Extigy Installation CD for additional demonstrations, libraries and other software. Visit the [www.soundblaster.com](http://www.soundblaster.com) site for the latest Sound Blaster news and products. The site also includes information on making purchases, technical help, and CreativeWare updates.

## Technical Support

Visit <http://www.soundblaster.com/support/faq/> for general help.

## Document Conventions

The following typographical conventions are used throughout this manual:



The notepad icon indicates information that is of particular importance and should be considered before continuing.



The alarm clock designates a caution or warning that can help you avoid situations involving risk.



The warning sign indicates that failure to adhere to directions may result in bodily harm or life-threatening situations.



# 1

## About Sound Blaster Extigy

This chapter gets you ready to install the Sound Blaster Extigy hardware.

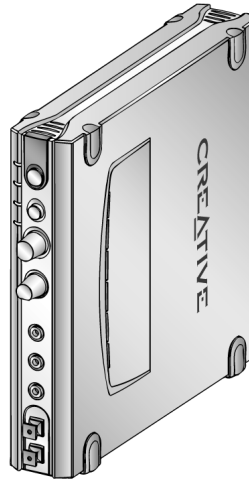
# About Sound Blaster Extigy

## What You Need



In addition, you will also need an available USB port on your computer.

Before you begin installation, be sure that you have these:



Sound Blaster Extigy



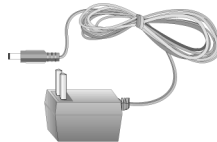
Remote Control



Installation CD



USB cable



AC Adapter\*



Sound Blaster Extigy Stands

\*May differ depending on country of purchase

Figure 1-1: Items needed for installation.

# Your Sound Blaster Extigy

Your Sound Blaster Extigy has these jacks and connectors that allow you to attach other devices:

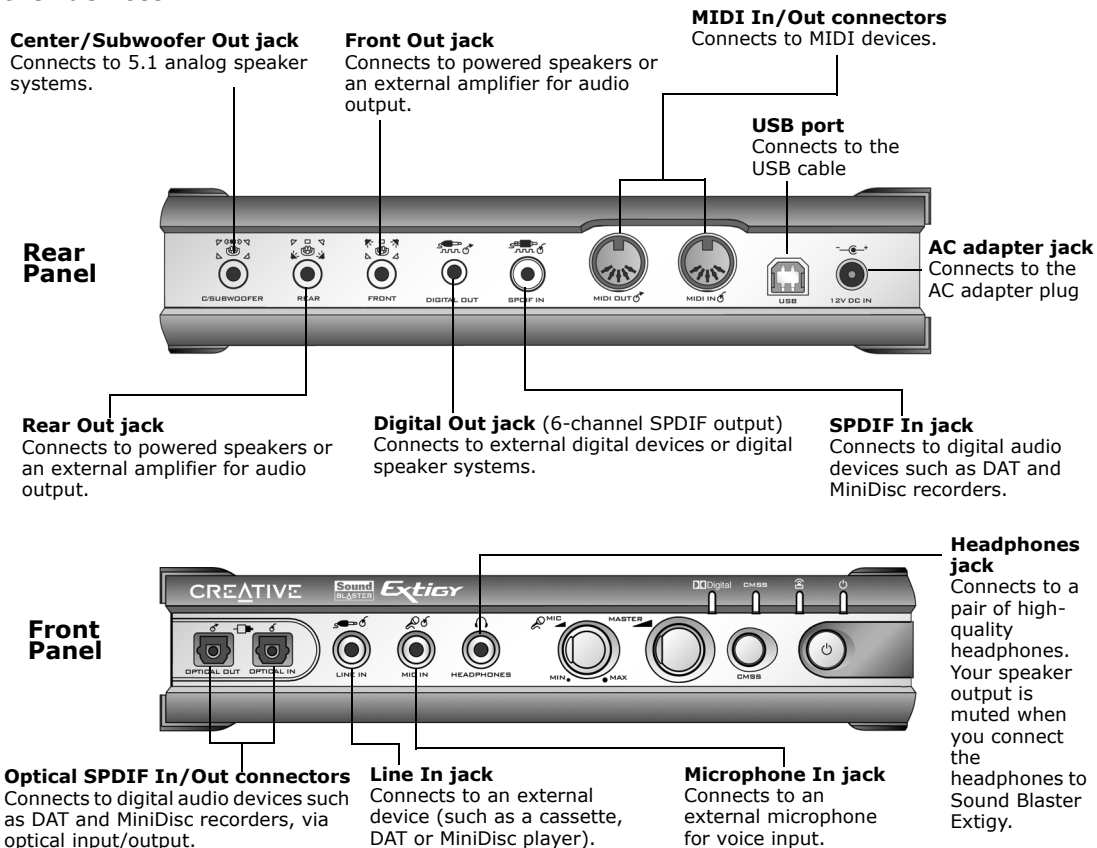


Figure 1-2: Jacks, connectors and ports on Sound Blaster Extigy.

## Controls and LEDs

The front panel of your Sound Blaster Extigy has these controls and LEDs:



Set the gain of the Mic In jack to the minimum before connecting a microphone, especially if you are using headphones.

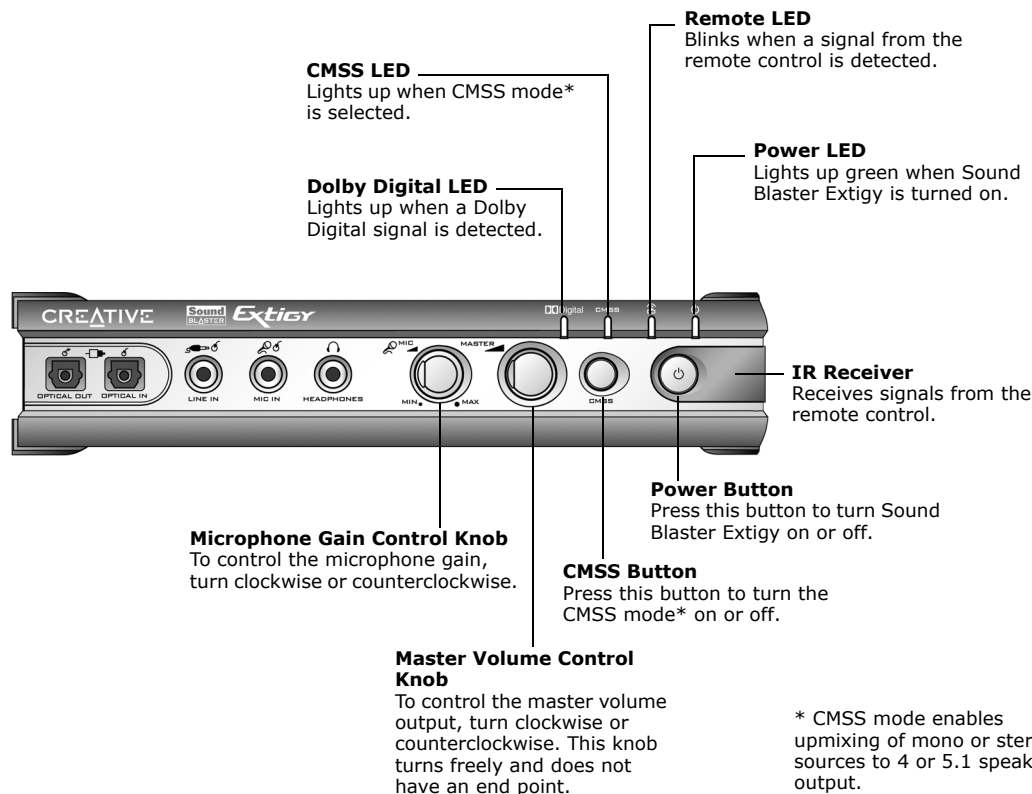


Figure 1-3: Controls and LEDs on Sound Blaster Extigy.

## Connecting Headphones



Use a 1/4 " to 3.5 mm adapter for headphones or microphones with 1/4 " plugs.

There are two types of headphones that you can connect to your Sound Blaster Extigy:

- ☐ Home audio or professional audio headphones, usually fitted with a 1/4 " stereo plug.
- ☐ Personal stereo headphones, usually fitted with a 3.5 mm stereo plug, such as those used for portable audio players.

**Note:** When headphones are plugged in, speaker output is muted. Headphones volume is controlled by the master volume, see "Adjusting Master Volume and Microphone Gain" below.

## Connecting Microphones

There are two types of microphones that you can connect to your Sound Blaster Extigy:

- ☐ Dynamic microphone, usually fitted with a 1/4 " plug, such as the type used in vocal performances.
- ☐ Condenser microphone, usually fitted with a 3.5 mm plug.

## Adjusting Master Volume and Microphone Gain

You can adjust the master volume and microphone gain in the following ways.



Figure 1-4: Microphone and Master Volume Control Knobs.

## Using the Sound Blaster Extigy control knobs

On the front panel of Sound Blaster Extigy, turn the respective control knob:

- ☐ **Counterclockwise** to **decrease** the master volume or microphone gain.
- ☐ **Clockwise** to **increase** the master volume or microphone gain.



## Using Creative Audio Mixer



To install Creative Audio Mixer and other applications, see "Software Installation" on page 2-2.



- For best effects, set the master volume and microphone gain levels to 75% in Audio Mixer, and then use the Sound Blaster Extigy control knobs to make further adjustments.
- If you set the master volume or microphone gain levels to 0%, or mute them in Audio Mixer, no sound will be heard, even if the Sound Blaster Extigy control knobs are set to the maximum.

## Using a Remote Control with Your Computer

To adjust master volume:

1. Click **Start -> Programs -> Creative -> Sound Blaster Extigy -> Creative Audio Mixer**.
2. On Audio Mixer, make sure that the **Mute** check box under the **Volume** slider is clear. Otherwise, click the check box.
3. Drag the **Volume** slider up or down to adjust the master volume.

To adjust microphone gain:

1. Click **Start -> Programs -> Creative -> Sound Blaster Extigy -> Creative Audio Mixer**.
2. On Audio Mixer, click an audio input source button with a down arrow, and then select **Microphone**.
3. Make sure the check box below the **Microphone** slider is cleared. If not, click it to clear the check box. This will unmute the audio input source.
4. Drag the slider up or down to adjust the microphone gain.

Sound Blaster Extigy has an infrared receiver for the remote control. This remote control lets you operate your computer from the comfort of your sofa or bed up to a distance of 4 meters (13 '). For details, refer to the RemoteCenter [online Help](#).

## Remote Control Functions

Refer to Figure 1-5 and Figure 1-6 below for a description of your remote control's functions.



\* OSD - On Screen Display.

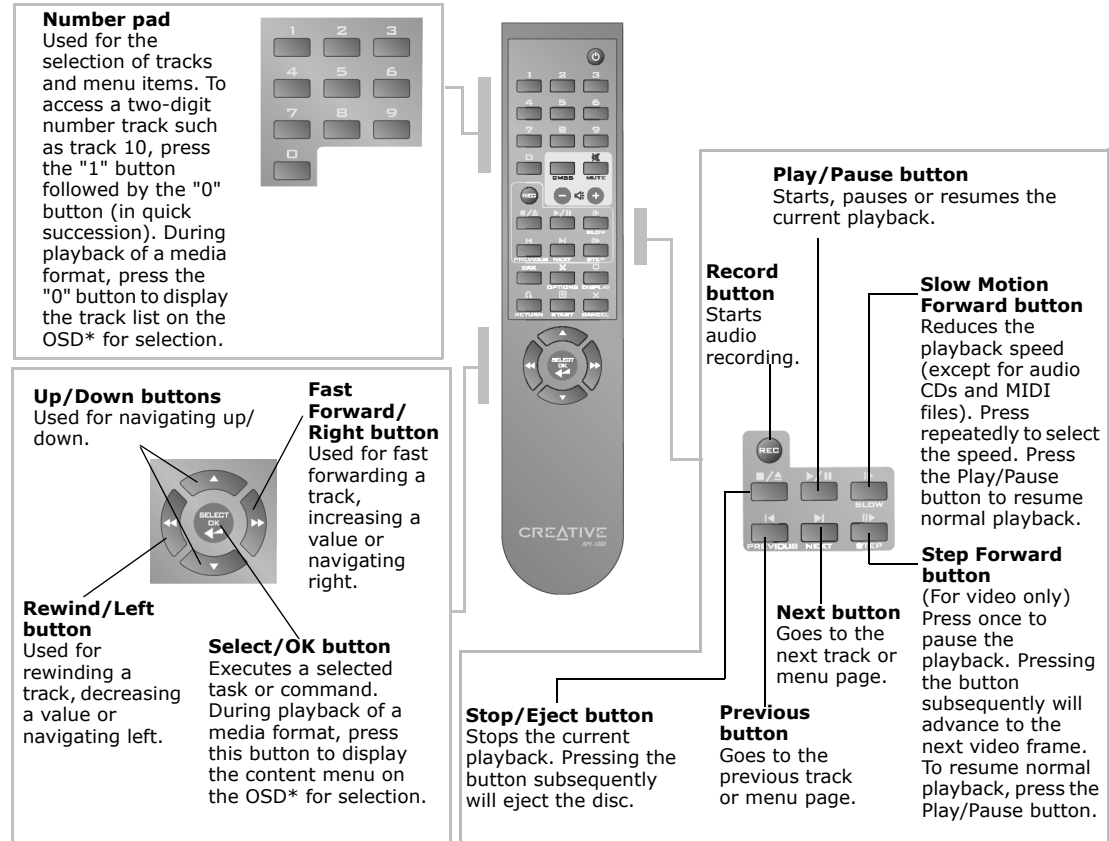
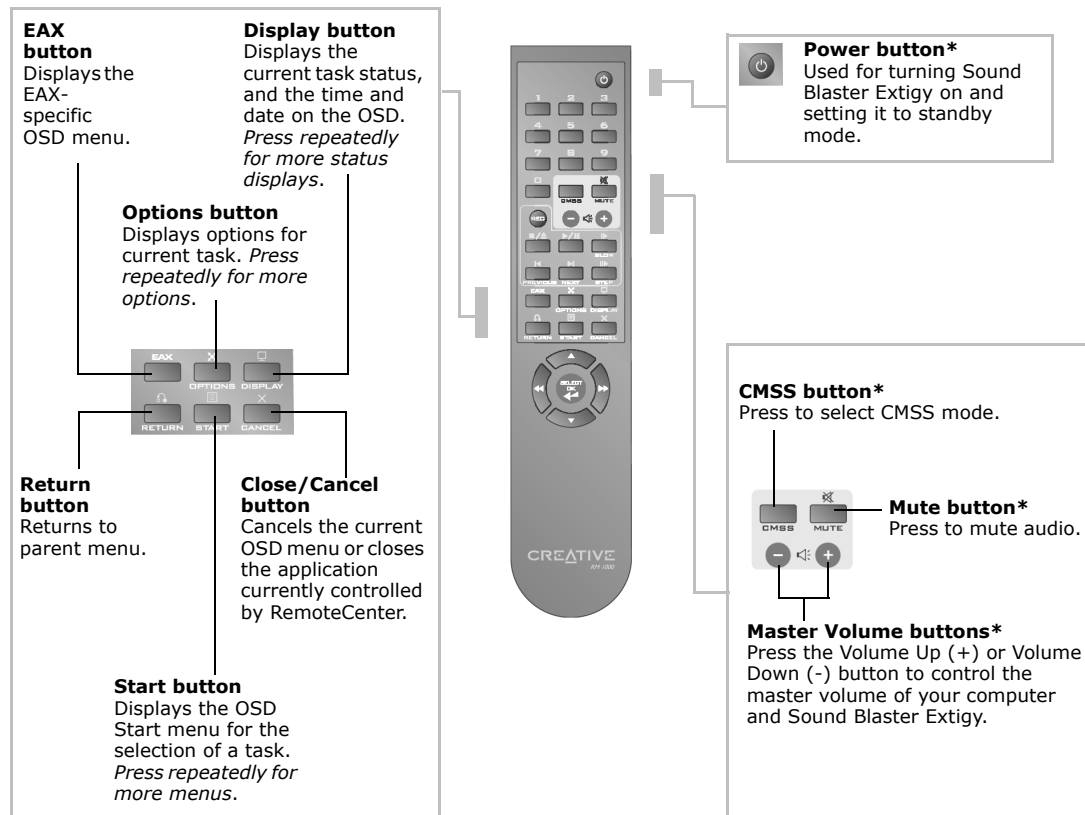


Figure 1-5: Navigation Buttons on the Remote Control.



\* These functions are available in standalone mode. For more information, see Chapter 2, "Standalone Operation".

Figure 1-6: Other Buttons on the Remote Control.



## **2** Installing and Using Sound Blaster Extigy

This chapter tells you how to install and use Sound Blaster Extigy.

# Installing and Using Sound Blaster Extigy

## Hardware Connections

1. Turn on your computer.
2. Connect the supplied USB cable and AC adapter as shown in Figure 2-1.



Sound Blaster Extigy should only be operated with the supplied AC adapter.



- The USB cable can be connected to your computer while the computer is turned on.
- The USB port(s) on some computers are located on the front panel instead of the back.

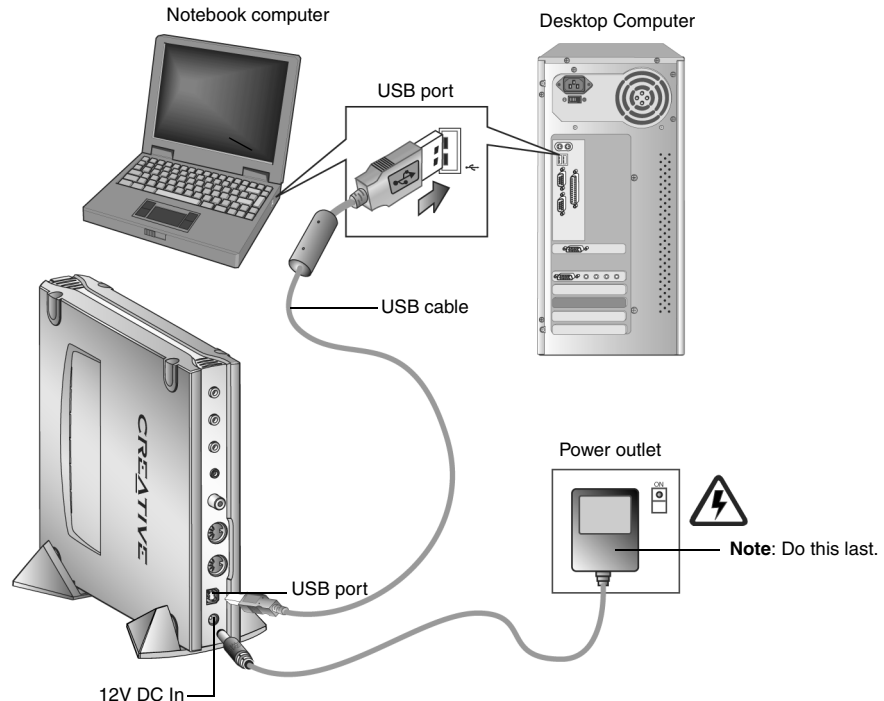


Figure 2-1: Connecting Sound Blaster Extigy to the computer and power supply.



3. Place Sound Blaster Extigy on a flat surface, plug the AC adapter into a power outlet and turn on the outlet, if needed. Windows automatically detects the device.

## Software Installation

Use the appropriate software installation procedure, depending on your computer's operating system.

### Windows 98 SE and Windows Me



For Windows 98 SE systems, the Windows 98 SE Installation CD is required during installation.

1. Windows detects the new hardware and prompts you to install USB device drivers.
2. Click the **Cancel** button, then insert the Sound Blaster Extigy CD into your CD-ROM drive.
3. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the drivers and applications installation.  
A dialog box appears prompting you to restart your computer.
4. Click the **Finish** button to restart your computer.

### Windows 2000 and Windows XP

1. Insert the Sound Blaster Extigy CD into your CD-ROM drive.
2. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the drivers and applications installation.  
A dialog box appears prompting you to restart your computer.
3. Click the **Finish** button to restart your computer.



## Verifying the software installation

Follow the steps below to verify that your Sound Blaster Extigy has been installed correctly.

### Windows 98 SE and Windows Me

1. Right-click the **My Computer** icon on your desktop.
2. On the menu that appears, click **Properties**.
3. In the **System Properties** dialog box, click the **Device Manager** tab.
4. Click the plus (+) sign next to the **Sound, video and game controllers** icon. The entry "**Creative SB Extigy**" should appear. If the entry does not appear, repeat the installation procedure on page 2-2.

### Windows 2000 and Windows XP

1. Right-click the **My Computer** icon on your desktop.
2. On the menu that appears, click **Properties**.
3. In the **System Properties** dialog box, click the **Hardware** tab.
4. Click the **Device Manager** button.
5. Click the plus (+) sign next to the **Sound, video and game controllers** icon. The entry "**Creative SB Extigy**" should appear. If the entry does not appear, repeat the installation procedure on page 2-2.

## Connecting Peripherals

Sound Blaster Extigy will undoubtedly give you endless hours of listening pleasure. Figure 2-2 shows you how to connect peripherals to your Sound Blaster Extigy to optimize your enjoyment.

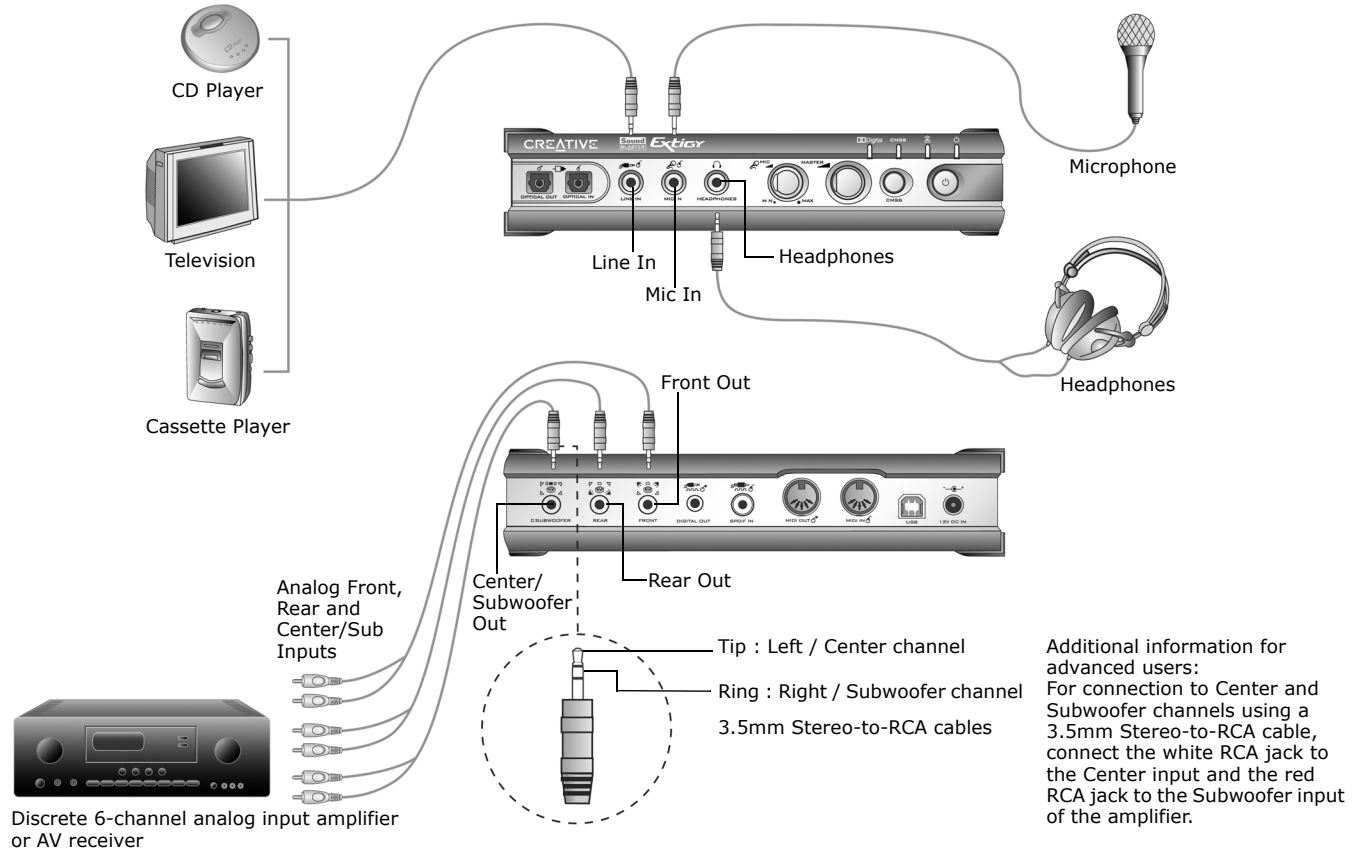


Figure 2-2: Connecting devices.



## Recording and Content Authoring



A minijack-to-coaxial adapter is required to connect your digital device to the Digital Out jack.

Sound Blaster Extigy supports digital audio connectivity for perfect recordings and content authoring. Figure 2-3 shows you how to connect digital peripherals to your Sound Blaster Extigy.

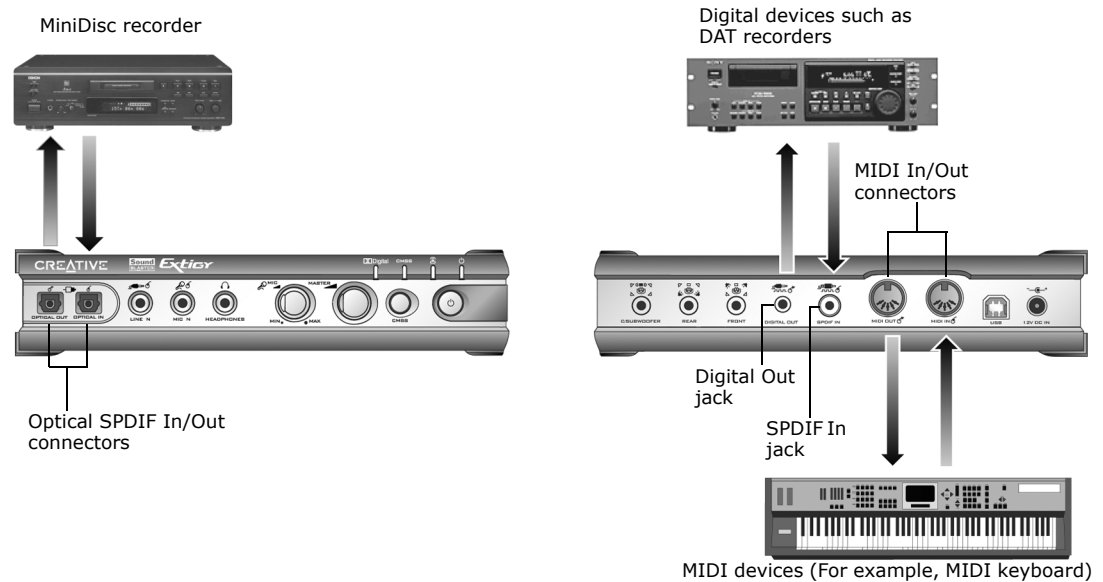


Figure 2-3: Connecting recorders to Sound Blaster Extigy.

## Connecting Speaker Systems

Playing games, music or watching movies

Sound Blaster Extigy supports both analog and digital speakers. If you have a 5.1 channel speaker system, you can upmix your stereo sources (such as CD Audio, MP3, WMA, MIDI and Wave) to 5.1 channels by using the Creative Multi Speaker Surround (CMSS) technology. To upmix, you need to enable the CMSS feature in PlayCenter. Refer to the PlayCenter [online Help](#).

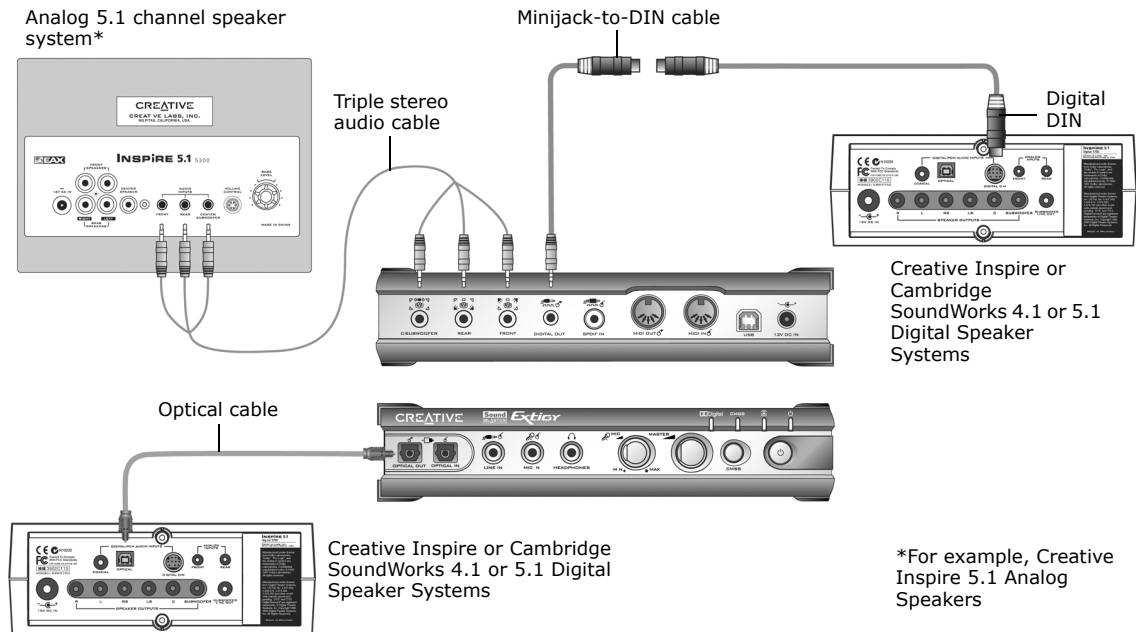


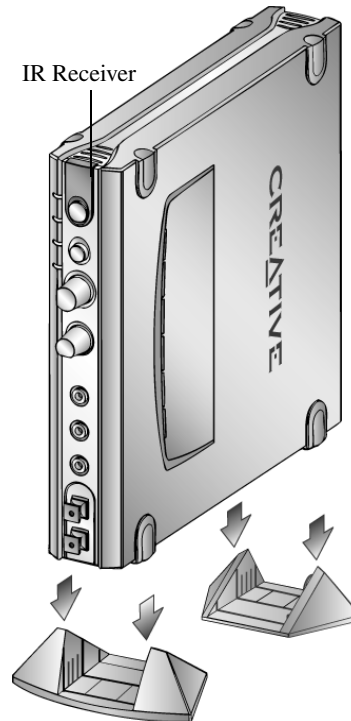
Figure 2-4: Connecting speaker systems to Sound Blaster Extigy.

## Attaching Sound Blaster Extigy Stands

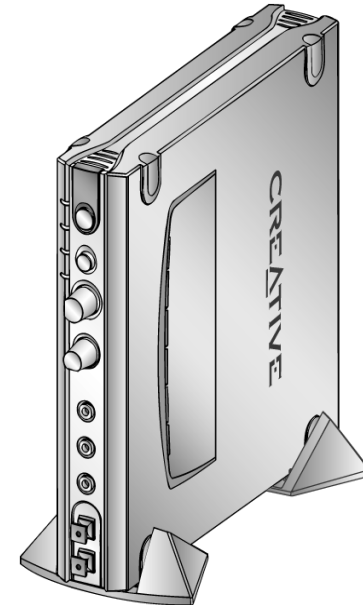


To prevent the IR Receiver from being blocked, make sure you attach the stands as shown in Figure 2-5.

If you want to place Sound Blaster Extigy vertically, attach the provided stands to the base of Sound Blaster Extigy, as shown in Figure 2-5 below.



- 1** Position Sound Blaster Extigy over the stands so that the grooves of the stands are in alignment with the rubber pads of Sound Blaster Extigy.



- 2** Push the stands in, and make sure they fit firmly over Sound Blaster Extigy as shown above.

Figure 2-5: Attaching stands to Sound Blaster Extigy.

## Inserting Batteries into Remote Control

To insert batteries into your remote control, follow the steps in Figure 2-6 below.

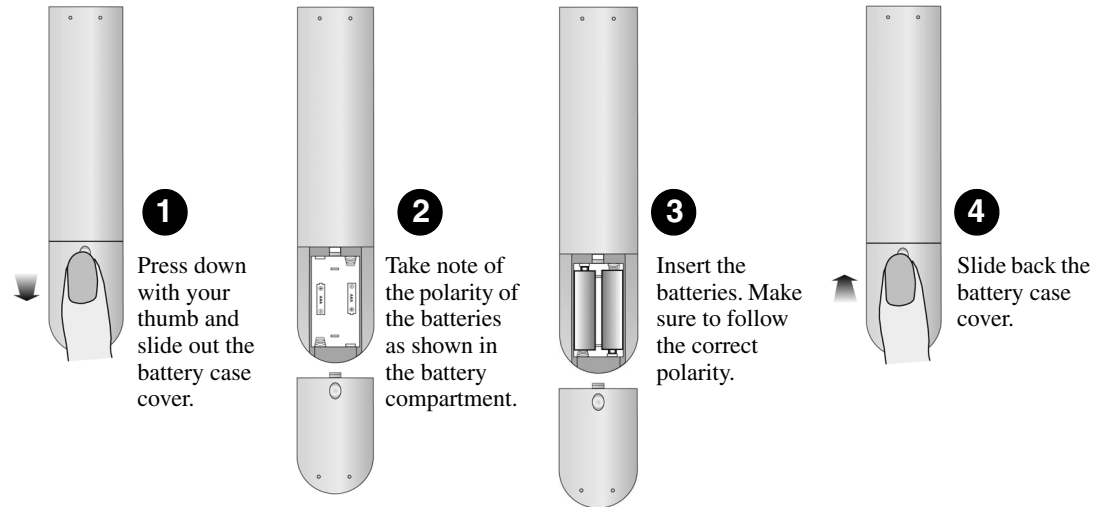


Figure 2-6: Inserting batteries into the remote control.

## Positioning Speakers

If you have a 5.1-channel speaker system, position the front and rear speakers to form the corners of a square with you exactly in the center. Place the center speaker between your front speakers (for example, on your TV or monitor). Place the subwoofer in a corner of the room for the best bass experience. Adjust the relative positions of the speakers until you get the best audio experience. For recommended speaker positions, see Figure 2-7 below.

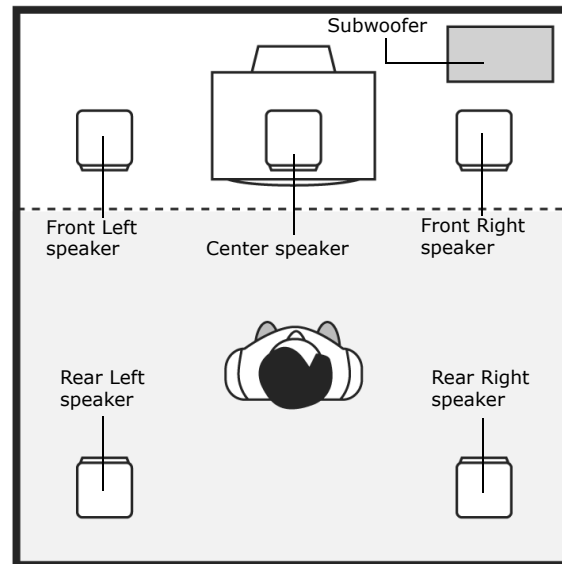


Figure 2-7: Recommended speaker positions.

## Standalone Operation

### Listening to digital audio



Sound Blaster Extigy also decodes 2 channel digital signals like CD Digital Audio (PCM).

The Sound Blaster Extigy can be operated without being connected to a computer. The following are some recommendations for standalone operation.

Maximise your enjoyment of Dolby Digital AC3 encoded movies and music.

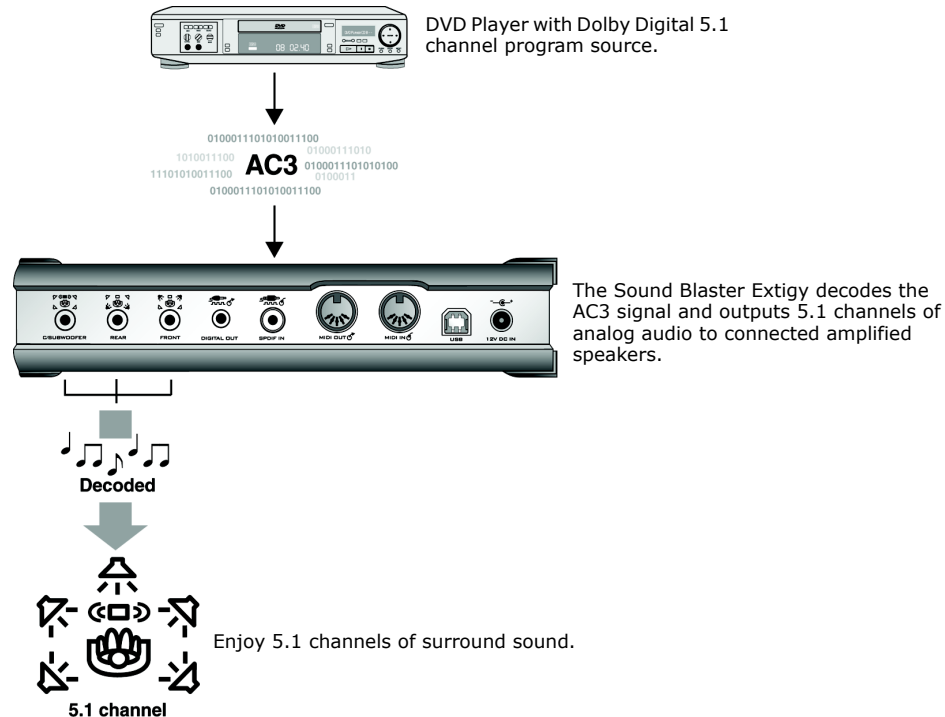


Figure 2-8: Standalone Operation - Digital Audio.

## Upmixing 2-channel audio

Enjoy 5.1 channels of surround sound from a 2-channel (stereo) analog program source.

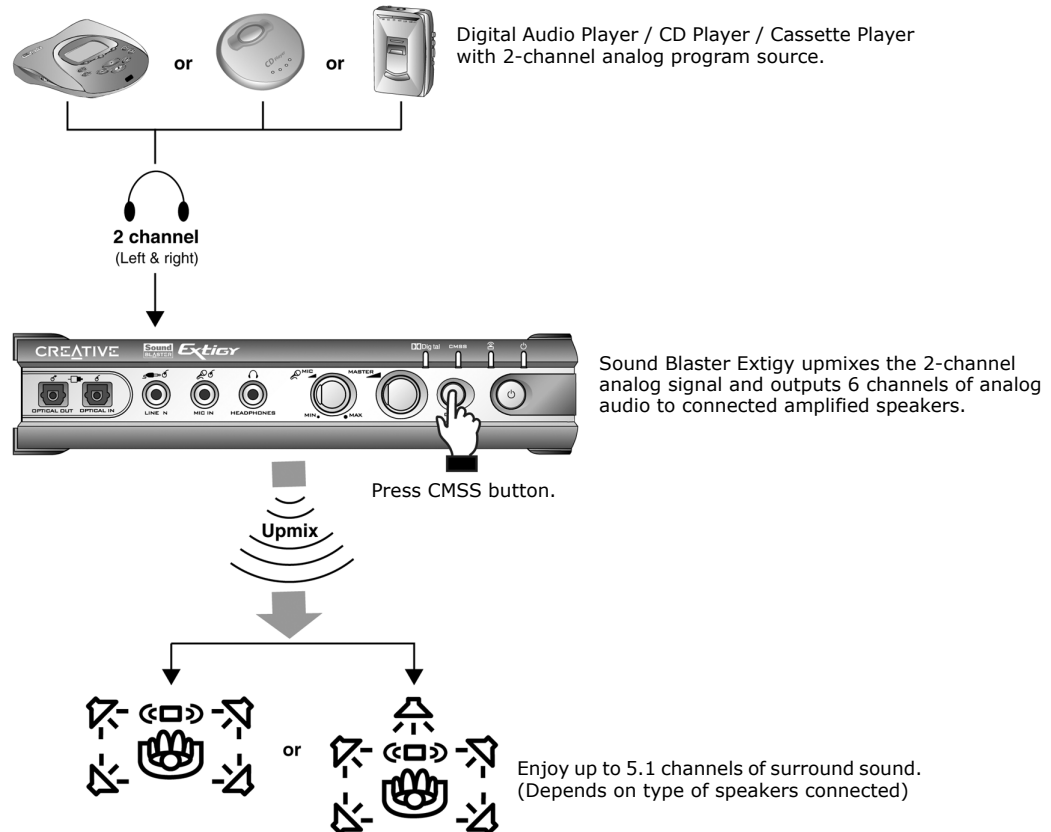


Figure 2-9: Standalone Operation - 2-Channel Upmix.

## Mixing analog inputs

Mix music and microphone inputs to sing along with your favorite tunes.

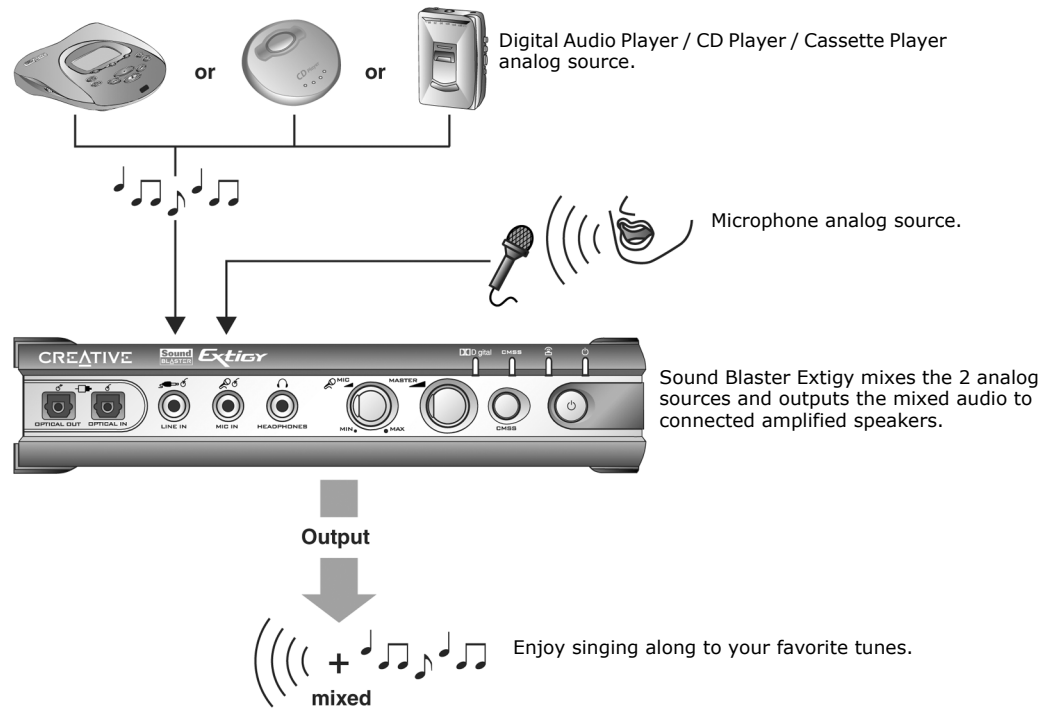


Figure 2-10: Standalone Operation - Mixed Analog Output.





# 3 Sound Blaster Extigy Applications

This chapter tells you about the applications bundled with your Sound Blaster Extigy.



# Sound Blaster Extigy Applications

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## Creative Sound Blaster Extigy Applications

Sound Blaster Extigy is supported by a full range of applications to help you get the most from your audio device. The following set of software is most important to the operation of your Sound Blaster Extigy:

- ☐ Creative Audio Control
- ☐ Creative Diagnostics
- ☐ Creative Audio Mixer
- ☐ Creative WaveStudio
- ☐ Creative PlayCenter
- ☐ Creative Recorder
- ☐ Creative RemoteCenter
- ☐ Creative MiniDisc Center

The following enable you to enjoy the full Sound Blaster Extigy experience:

- ☐ Creative Sound Blaster Extigy Quick Start
- ☐ Creative Sound Blaster Extigy Tour



## Creative Audio Control

Creative Audio Control is a utility that allows you to control the SPDIF output frequency and the audio mixing quality of your USB audio product. Double-click the Audio Control icon in Windows Control Panel to open this applet.

For more information and usage details on Creative Audio Control, refer to its [online Help](#).

## Creative Diagnostics

Creative Diagnostics is a simple but useful program for diagnosing and fixing any problems that you may have with your audio hardware. The diagnostic tests will check that the audio hardware is detected, the audio drivers are working, and the mixer settings are correct. A speaker test is also provided to let you test the physical connections from Sound Blaster Extigy to the speakers. If the test detects problems, Creative Diagnostics will provide solutions. Use Creative Diagnostics to help you have a trouble-free audio experience.

For more information and usage details on Creative Diagnostics, refer to its [online Help](#).

## Creative Audio Mixer

Creative Audio Mixer is a powerful audio mixer that allows you to have complete control over all your audio sources. It is the main program used to adjust your audio settings when you play music or when you record sound. With Creative Audio Mixer, you can:

- ☐ Control the volume of an audio source.
- ☐ Select the recording source.
- ☐ Select your speaker configuration.
- ☐ Control the speaker balance and fade.

For more information and usage details on Creative Audio Mixer, refer to its [online Help](#).

## Creative WaveStudio

Creative WaveStudio allows you to perform the following sound editing functions easily:

- ☐ Play, edit, and record 8-bit (tape quality) and 16-bit (CD quality) wave data
- ☐ Enhance wave data or create unique sounds with various special effects and editing operations such as reverse, echo, mute, pan, cut, copy, and paste
- ☐ Open and edit several audio files at the same time
- ☐ Open Raw (.RAW) and MP3 (.MP3) data files

For more information and usage details on Creative WaveStudio, refer to its [online Help](#).

## Creative PlayCenter

Creative PlayCenter is a revolutionary audio CD and digital audio (such as MP3, WMA or AC3) player. Besides managing your favorite digital audio files on your computer, it is also an integrated MP3/WMA encoder for ripping audio CD tracks into compressed digital audio files. It can encode tracks many times faster than normal play speed and up to 320 kbps (for MP3).

For more information and usage details on Creative PlayCenter, refer to its [online Help](#).

**Note:** In accordance with the requirements for devices supporting Microsoft's Digital Rights Management (DRM), the SPDIF output of the device is disabled while a DRM secured selection is playing. Consequently, both the coaxial and optical digital outputs of Sound Blaster Extigy are disabled during the playback of DRM secured selections.

## Creative Recorder

Creative Recorder allows you to record sounds or music from various input sources, for example, microphone or audio CD, and save them as Wave (.WAV) files. For more information and usage details on Creative Recorder, refer to its [online Help](#).

## Creative RemoteCenter

Creative RemoteCenter converts your computer into an entertainment system, which you can control from the comfort of your bed or sofa. With the remote control and RemoteCenter Player, a simple but powerful multimedia player, you can play audio and video CDs on your computer from a distance. You no longer need to be directly in front of your computer to select or change tracks because the remote center system comes with On-Screen Display (OSD), which makes the commands or functions available viewable from a distance of 4 meters (13 '). RemoteCenter also allows you to start and control your favorite Windows applications.

For more information on Creative RemoteCenter, refer to its [online Help](#).

## Creative MiniDisc Center

Creative MiniDisc Center allows you to play back popular audio file formats and compact discs for recording to DAT and MD recorders.

With MiniDisc Center, you can:

- ☐ put together an album of your favorite songs, each of which may be in a different audio format
- ☐ insert a preset period of silence automatically after each track
- ☐ organize a sequence of tracks to be played back and then recorded to your digital recorder

For more information and usage details on Creative MiniDisc Center, refer to its [online Help](#).



## Creative Sound Blaster Extigy Quick Start

This is a good starting point from which you can learn about Sound Blaster Extigy. The online Quick Start consists of several interactive and informative demos that feature different aspects of Sound Blaster Extigy, like experiencing digital music, watching movies and connecting speakers.

## Creative Sound Blaster Extigy Tour

The Creative Sound Blaster Extigy Tour is an online presentation that gives you an interactive introduction to the features and capabilities of Sound Blaster Extigy.



# 4 Using Applications

This chapter tells you which applications to use for content creation, gaming and entertainment purposes.

# Using Applications

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Sound Blaster Extigy offers you high-quality multimedia playback, digital entertainment, content creation capability, internet entertainment and gaming. The following pages tell you which applications would best suit your needs.

## Multimedia Playback

### Watching DVDs



Some software DVD decoders/players cannot decode up to 5.1 channels, but can support SPDIF output. In such cases, enable the SPDIF output function to allow Sound Blaster Extigy to decode the Dolby Digital signal.

To enjoy the surround experience of Dolby Digital (5.1 channels) encoded DVD movies, you must have a DVD-compatible drive and a set of speakers that support up to six channels such as Creative Inspire 5.1 Analog Speakers. Dolby Digital encoded DVD movies are best experienced with software DVD players such as InterVideo WinDVD 2000 or Cyberlink PowerDVD 3.0.

For the best audio quality, enable the SPDIF output from the software DVD player so that the Dolby Digital signal is decoded by Sound Blaster Extigy and directed to a high quality 5.1 speaker system such as the Creative Inspire 5.1 series.

### Playing MP3, WMA or AC3 files

Creative PlayCenter supports and plays MP3, WMA and AC3 files.





## Playing back Wave and CD Audio files

Use Creative PlayCenter to play back both Wave and CD Audio files. WAV is the format for digital audio files on the Windows operating platform. CD Audio refers to audio compact discs that can be played on your CD-ROM drive.

## Playing MIDI files

MIDI (\*.MID) is a music format that uses a synthesizer for playback. Use Creative PlayCenter to play MIDI files.

## Digital Entertainment

### Watching movies with surround sound

If you want to enjoy high quality movie entertainment, ensure that you have good speakers. If you have a 4- or 5-speaker system connected to your Sound Blaster Extigy, configure your speaker setup in Creative Audio Mixer. For DVD movies, it is recommended that you purchase a Creative PC-DVD ROM drive, as well as Creative Inspire 5.1 Analog Speakers.

### Compiling personal albums

You can compile albums containing CD Audio, WAV or MIDI files using Creative PlayCenter.



## Content Creation

### Recording sound and effects

Creative Recorder is an easy way of recording any audio source without worrying about mixer settings. You can also record any audio effects.

### Recording digital audio

You can do digital recording and editing (16-bit, 48 kHz) on your computer with Sound Blaster Extigy using Creative Wave Studio. Connect any SPDIF compatible device such as a DAT deck and select SPDIF In in Creative Audio Mixer.

## Internet Entertainment

### Encoding CD songs to MP3 format

With Creative PlayCenter, you can encode and record all your favorite CD songs into your computer's hard drive, so that you have a database of customized song lists.

### Downloading and playing MP3 songs

With Creative PlayCenter, you can add current songs to your database by downloading them from various sites on the Internet.

### Playing MP3 songs with EAX

Use Creative PlayCenter to create MP3 renditions with multi-dimensional and multi-textured realism by adding environments such as "concert hall" or "bathroom"! You can share these enhanced MP3 songs, even with someone who does not own Sound Blaster Extigy.



## Gaming Reference

### Enjoying EAX support

Enjoy the many EAX titles designed by top game developers, which immerse you in realistic environments. Visit <http://www.eax.creative.com> for a full list of compatible titles.

### Enjoying DirectSound3D support

DirectSound3D (DS3D) games are supported on your Sound Blaster Extigy. You can hear sounds positioned in 3D space to enhance your game experience.

**A**

## General Specifications

This section displays the specifications of your Sound Blaster Extigy



# General Specifications

---

This section lists the specifications of your Sound Blaster Extigy.

## Features

### High Definition Audio Quality

- ❑ High Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) exceeding 100dB using high linearity, low distortion 24-bit converters with resolutions of up to 96 kHz
- ❑ 24-bit / 96 kHz Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC) for various analog inputs
- ❑ 24-bit / 96 kHz Digital-to-Analog Converter (DAC) for 6-channel analog speaker and headphone outputs
- ❑ Independent 24-bit Analog-to-Digital Converters for Line and Microphone input controls to provide recording and mixing flexibility
- ❑ Supports Sony/Philips Digital Interface (SPDIF) format input signal of up to 24-bit / 96 kHz quality

### Professional Quality DSP Engine

- ❑ Creative's high performance hardware Digital Signal Processor (DSP), for precise sampling rate conversion, CMSS, 3D audio algorithm processing, digital mixing and bass management; as well as accurate Dolby Digital processing
- ❑ High speed Dolby Digital DSP for accurate processing of Dolby Digital streams
- ❑ Host based 32-bit floating point effects engine for professional quality real-time effects, processing, mixing and positioning of audio streams



## EAX ADVANCED HD™, Advanced Audio and 3D Audio Technology

- ❑ Optimized user-selectable settings for headphones, two, four or six speakers and external A/V amplifiers
- ❑ Improved Creative Multi Speaker Surround™ (CMSS) technology accurately places mono or stereo sources in a 360° audio space
- ❑ Realistic EAX reverb, panning and elevation effect brings life to your music and games
- ❑ Advanced time-scaling feature allows variable playback duration without altering pitch of original content
- ❑ Powerful Audio Clean-up feature removes noise and 'clicks' from playback of vinyl disk or cassette tape recordings

## Dynamic Dolby Digital Playback

- ❑ "Dolby Laboratories" approved hardware Dolby Digital decoding that does not rely on the host processor power for decoding, resulting in a consistent Dolby Digital playback that does not depend on software or hardware DVD players
- ❑ Dedicated Dolby Digital (AC-3) hardware DSP decoder with support for up to 24-bit I/O data format. Ability to decode Dolby Digital streams from optical, coaxial SPDIF input or host PC via USB connection
- ❑ Built-in 24-bit DACs provide the best audio resolution for Dolby Digital playback, making it the perfect partner for DVD applications
- ❑ Optimum bass management feature allows speakers of different sizes to be accommodated - be it Creative Inspire™ range of 5.1 channel speakers or '6-channel ready' home A/V amplifiers
- ❑ Provides mixing of Dolby Digital audio with real-time game play audio effects - a feature that normal consumer Dolby Digital A/V receivers are not capable of supporting

## Advanced USB Features

- ❑ Optimized dynamic bandwidth allocation architecture for audio data transfer via USB bus. The architecture provides support for simultaneous playback of 5.1 multi-channel audio together with a compressed Dolby Digital (AC-3) stream while supporting a full duplex recording session
- ❑ The dynamic bandwidth allocation architecture is ideal for playing 3D games or applications with Dolby Digital tracks that simultaneously support voice recognition for command and control
- ❑ MIDI I/O connection to PC via high speed USB assures reliable, immediate MIDI transfers for professional quality MIDI recording and/or playback
- ❑ Works as a standalone unit or with more functionality when connected to the PC via the USB connection

## Connectivity

### Sound Blaster Extigy

#### Inputs and Outputs on Front Panel



SPDIF output is not available during playback of protected digital audio contents authored with Microsoft DRM (Digital Rights Management) technology

- ❑ One square connector for Optical SPDIF input
- ❑ One square connector for Optical SPDIF output
- ❑ One 3.5 mm (1/8 ") jack for stereo line-level analog input
- ❑ One 3.5 mm (1/8 ") jack for mono analog Microphone input
- ❑ One 3.5 mm (1/8 ") jack for stereo analog Headphones output. (When the Headphones plug is inserted, the autodetect feature automatically mutes the main speakers and the audio is redirected to Headphones output)
- ❑ One Infrared Receiver for receiving signals from the Remote Control unit. (The optimal direct line-of-sight transmission range is within 5 m (16 ') or 3 m (10 ') with 30° deviation from the center axis)

## Control Knobs and Buttons on Front Panel

- ☐ One Microphone gain control knob (Min. to Max. with clockwise rotation)
- ☐ One Master Volume gain control knob (digital control, clockwise rotation to increase volume)
- ☐ One CMSS button: When enabled, stereo sources will be up-mixed to 4 or 5.1 channel output depending on the speaker configuration. When disabled (Direct mode), audio sources will be reproduced without any up-mixing
- ☐ One Power button

## Inputs and Outputs On Rear Panel



Do not use with power adapters not designed for Sound Blaster Extigy as incompatible power ratings may cause damage to the unit or inflict bodily harm.

- ☐ One 3.5 mm (1/8 ") jack for stereo analog Front Left and Right Speaker output
- ☐ One 3.5 mm (1/8 ") jack for stereo analog Rear Left and Right Speaker output
- ☐ One 3.5 mm (1/8 ") jack for analog Center Speaker and Subwoofer output
- ☐ One 3.5 mm (1/8 ") 4-pole jack for digital output to external digital devices such as 2, 4 or 5.1 Cambridge SoundWorks or Creative Inspire range of speakers
- ☐ One RCA / Coaxial jack for SPDIF input
- ☐ One standard 5-pin DIN connector for MIDI input
- ☐ One standard 5-pin DIN connector for MIDI output
- ☐ One USB port (Type B)
- ☐ One Power Supply Input jack (12 V DC In). Connects to the supplied external AC/DC power adapter.

## Display Indicators

- ☐ One green LED to indicate power status. Lights up when the unit is switched on.
- ☐ One red LED to indicate remote control receive status. Blinks when it receives a transmission message from the Remote Control unit.
- ☐ One green LED to indicate CMSS status. Lights up when CMSS is enabled.
- ☐ One green LED to indicate Dolby Digital status. Lights up when the unit receives a source encoded with Dolby Digital bitstream.





## B Troubleshooting

This section provides solutions to problems you may encounter during installation or normal use.

# Troubleshooting

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This appendix provides solutions to problems you may encounter during installation or normal use.

## Problems Installing Software

**The installation does not start automatically after the Sound Blaster Extigy Installation CD is inserted.**

The AutoPlay feature in your Windows system may not be enabled.

*To start the installation program through the My Computer shortcut menu:*

1. Double-click the **My Computer** icon on your Windows desktop.
2. In the **My Computer** window, right-click the CD-ROM drive icon.
3. On the shortcut menu, click **AutoPlay** and follow the instructions on the screen.

*To enable AutoPlay through Auto Insert Notification:*

1. Click **Start -> Settings -> Control Panel**.
2. In the **Control Panel** window, double-click the **System** icon.
3. In the **System Properties** dialog box, click the **Device Manager** tab and select your CD-ROM drive.
4. Click the **Properties** button.
5. In the **Properties** dialog box, click the **Settings** tab and select **Auto Insert Notification**.
6. Click the **OK** button to exit from the dialog box.

## Problems with Sound



If you do not hear any sound from an audio input source, make sure that in Creative Audio Mixer, the **Mute** checkbox for that source does not have a check mark in it.

### No sound from the headphones.

*Check the following:*

- ☐ The headphones are connected to the Headphones jack.
- ☐ In Creative Audio Mixer, the **Headphones** option is selected in the **Speaker** box.

### No sound from the speakers.

*Check the following:*

- ☐ You have connected your speakers to your Sound Blaster Extigy's output.
- ☐ You have selected the correct source in Creative Audio Mixer.
- ☐ Headphones are not connected to Sound Blaster Extigy. Output to the speakers is automatically cut off when headphones are connected.

### No audio output when playing digital files such as .WAV, MIDI files or AVI clips.

*Check the following:*

- ☐ The speakers' volume control knob, if any, is set at mid-range. Use Creative Audio Mixer to adjust the volume, if necessary.
- ☐ The powered speakers or external amplifier are connected to Sound Blaster Extigy's Center/Subwoofer, Rear and Front output jacks.
- ☐ The Speaker selection in the Creative Audio Mixer corresponds to your speaker or headphone configuration.

### Crackling sound heard when playing 5.1-channel program material.

When more than one USB device shares a USB port, and are used at the same time, your computer's performance may be affected. A message warning you that there is not enough bandwidth available may also appear.

*To solve the problem, do one or both of the following to reduce the USB bandwidth used:*

- ☐ Close one or more applications that are running the USB devices.
- ☐ Change your speaker configuration in Creative Audio Mixer from **5.1 Speakers** to **2 Speakers**, if 5.1 speakers are being used.



*You can also enable Direct Memory Access to your storage devices. Follow the steps below:*

For Windows 98 SE and Windows Me

1. Click **Start** -> **Settings** -> **Control Panel**.
2. In the **Control Panel** dialog box, double-click the **System** icon.
3. In the **System Properties** dialog box, click the **Device Manager** tab.
4. Double-click the **Disk drives** icon.  
Your computer drives will appear.
5. Double-click the **hard disk drive** icon.
6. In the box that appears, click the **Settings** tab.
7. Click the **DMA** (Direct Memory Access) check box to select it.  
An alert message box appears.
8. Click the **OK** button.
9. Click the **OK** button in the next box.
10. Click the **Close** button on the **System Properties** dialog box.
11. When prompted to restart your computer, click the **Yes** button.
12. Repeat steps 4-11 if you have other drives, for example, other hard disk drives, CD-ROM, CD-RW, and DVD-ROM drives. In step 4, double-click the respective drive icon.

For Windows 2000 and Windows XP

1. Click **Start** -> **Settings** -> **Control Panel**.
2. In the **Control Panel** dialog box, double-click the **System** icon.
3. In the **System Properties** dialog box, click the **Hardware** tab.
4. Click the **Device Manager** button.
5. Double-click the **ATA/ATAPI IDE Controllers** icon.  
Your **IDE channels** will appear.
6. Right-click the **Primary IDE Channel** icon.
7. Click **Properties**.

8. In the **Properties** dialog box, click the **Advanced Settings** tab.
9. Click the **DMA if available** check box, to select it.
10. Click the **OK** button.



- Digital CD Playback may not be available on external DVD/CD-ROM drives with PCMCIA IDE controllers.
- CD volume is controlled by the Wave/MP3 slider in the Audio Mixer application.

### **No audio output when playing audio CDs.**

Sound Blaster Extigy does not support analog CD audio playback. To listen to audio CDs, digital CD playback must be enabled. Do the following to enable digital CD playback:

For Windows 98 SE

1. Click **Start -> Settings -> Control Panel**.
2. In the **Control Panel** dialog box, double-click the **Multimedia** icon.
3. In the **Multimedia Properties** dialog box, click the **CD Music** tab.
4. Click the **Enable digital CD audio for this CD-ROM device** check box to select it.
5. Click the **OK** button.

For Windows Me

1. Click **Start -> Settings -> Control Panel**.
2. In the **Control Panel** dialog box, double-click the **System** icon.
3. In the **System Properties** dialog box, click the **Device Manager** tab.
4. Double-click the **DVD/CD-ROM drives** icon.  
Your computer drives will appear.
5. Right-click the **disk drive** icon.  
A menu will appear.
6. Click **Properties**.
7. In the **Digital CD Playback** box of the next dialog box, click the **Enable digital CD audio for this CD-ROM device** check box to select it.
8. Click the **OK** button.



For Windows 2000 and Windows XP

1. Click **Start** -> **Settings** -> **Control Panel**.
2. In the **Control Panel** dialog box, double-click the **System** icon.
3. In the **System Properties** dialog box, click the **Hardware** tab.
4. Click the **Device Manager** button.
5. Double-click the **DVD/CD-ROM drives** icon.  
Your computer drives will appear.
6. Right-click the **disk drive** icon.  
A menu will appear.
7. Click **Properties**.
8. In the **Digital CD Playback** box of the next dialog box, click the **Enable digital CD audio for this CD-ROM device** check box to select it.

**Unable to record or transfer CD audio tracks from CD-ROM/DVD-ROM to MiniDisc recorder, using the Creative MiniDisc application.**

Enable digital CD playback. For more information, refer to the topic, "No audio output when playing audio CDs." on page B-4.



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